

NUMBER 49

HOME RULE IDEA STRONG IN CITY MANAGER BILL

Amendment to City Charter
Provides Intimate Contact
With City Government by
People.

PROGRESSIVE BILL IN ALL PARTICULARS

Absence of Referendum Overcome by Powers Conferred Upon People for Self Control.

In the opinion of those familiar with city charters the proposed amendment to the Memphis taxing district act, embracing the city manager form of government, is as clearly in the spirit of the constitution as any measure which will permit, in a home rule measure, the ideal toward which progressive cities are striving.

To say that the amendment denies the people the right to determine what form of government they shall have is to exaggerate the lack of referendum for the passage of the bill and to ignore the contents of the bill itself.

The representatives of the special interests admittedly made some headway in their assaults upon the bill, but upon the absence of a referendum, to the people have had their eyes cast to the desirability of the attack, and they know now that the opponents of the bill without the referendum would fight it just as industriously with the referendum, but with the disadvantage that they would be compelled to fight

It can not be stated too often that the advocates and friends of the poor must first see and understand the situation in the open and reveal the selfish interests that they represent.

positions are not opposed to the referendum. For A. R. Hutton, who represented the committee in its efforts to persuade the legislature to take the measure, and the 13 members of the committee themselves said that the bill with a referendum was more preferable than the bill without a referendum for the reason that the people "if given an opportunity to vote on it, would read and study the bill more carefully. There is no doubt that patriotic, unselfish citizens will oppose the bill. An opportunity to vote on the measure will give the legislature some idea of the administration's position. It will also give the opposition a platform on which to expound the thought that has been stirring through the minds of the people since the

in substance: "If it is admittedly good measure, why quibble over manner of its adoption?"

Legal Opinion.

So far no reputable lawyer not identified with some political faction, without an axe to grind, has been found who will say positively that the bill is constitutional with the referendum clause.

On the other hand, practically every lawyer with whom the back issues

lawyer will say that he is uncertain or that he has his doubts about the validity of a measure with a referendum.

press himself and base his reputation upon the opinion is that the supreme court has not passed upon the validity of a measure identical in all respects with the proposed measure, and until it does pass upon the matter it remains a subject for litigation. The litigation is what the advocates of the referendum are seeking. It is to be decided whether the bill will be passed or whether it will be killed, the bill and prevent its passage either with or without the referendum.

Opinions have been quoted partly sustaining both claims, but the fact is that the measure is not so much fetched and most liberal as it is that there is more than a shadow of a doubt of the validity of the measure.

It must be borne in mind that those who are most insistent upon a referendum want it merely as a pretext for doing the will, therefore the proper

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GREER STILL IN

RACE FOR JUDGE

**Friends Go to Governor and
Possibly County Court,
Also.**

The fact that Squire Guthrie will before the county court with the backing of practically all of the office holders

caused friends of Judge J. M. Ge to stop. Many of them think that governor has the filling of the vacan

The call, which sets the hour of the election of the county court at 10 o'clock in the morning of Saturday, March 8, sets forth that its purpose is three-fold, the election of a

cessor to the late Judge Jacob S. Galloway, of the probate court: to remedy any defects that may exist in resolutions relative to the issuance of auditorium and market-house bonds.

"consider whether a memorial shall be presented to the Shelby delegation to secure the passage of a bill authorizing the county to issue \$500,000 bonds for aiding in the establishment of a new high school building."

of a government academy of aeronautics." It is provided in the call that the aeronautic school bonds are not to be issued unless the school is located in the United States.

The call is signed by J. A. Heald, chairman, upon the request of the following magistrates: F. W. Davis, T. McDonald, C. L. Clancy, John M. M.

ner and J. H. Adams.